INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SCRIPTURES

I. Profile

The students are in their first year of formation in the seminary. They are in the process of discerning their vocation to the priesthood. Part of their spiritual formation is the use of the Sacred Scriptures as a reference of study and as a source and guide for Christian living.

They come from different high schools in CARAGA region, both public and private institutions. Some of them are new graduates from high school while others are young professionals (late vocations). Thus, their knowledge and understanding of the Sacred Scripture varies.

II. Course Description

This course is a study on the Sacred Scriptures in a general perspective and a glimpse on the foundation of our Christian living. It aims to study its nature and purpose in the light of the Church teachings. The scope will be limited to the following topics: meaning, major divisions, canonicity, divine inspiration, ways of interpretation, and its history/developments.

III. Course Objectives

The students are enabled to:

Doctrine. Explain the nature and purpose of the Sacred Scriptures.
Morals. Enumerate concrete ways on how to live out the call by God through Sacred Scriptures.
Worship. Approach God in prayer through the Scriptures.

IV. Course Outline and Articles

1. Bible 101


1. Meaning
2. Divisions of the Bible
   • Old Testament: DV 3, 14-16
   • New Testament: DV 4, 17-20
   • Martin Hogan, The Formation of the Gospels.
3. Chapters and verses
4. Difference between Catholic and Protestant bible

2. History and Development of the Bible

1. 6 Keys Story Part of the Bible
   1. The Creation (Genesis 1 & 2)
   2. The Fall (Gen. 3)
   3. The Israelites (Exodus 4)
   4. The Life of Jesus (Matthew 5)
   5. The Life of Jesus’ Disciples (Acts 2)
   6. The End Times (Rev. 1)

1. The time of the Patriarchs
2. The Exodus
3. The Period of the Judges
4. The Monarchy
5. Exile and Return
6. Greek Conquest
7. Roman Period

3. **Canonicity, Inspiration, Dei Verbum**


1. Historical background of the canon of the bible
2. Divine Inspiration/Authorship
3. Dei Verbum
   - Sacred Scripture, Its Inspiration: Chapter 3 No. 11
4. Catechism for Filipino Catholics
   - Biblical Inspiration: 85-87
   - Canon of Scripture: 88, 113
   - Importance of Scripture in Daily Life: 98-100

4. **Application**

Dr. Ma. Lucia C. Natividad, *Sacred Scripture: Soul of Theology*, p. 4-9

- Interpretation of Scripture
  - Literal Interpretation
  - Spiritual/Pneumatic Exegesis
  - Christian Imagination
  - Performance Hermeneutics

✓ **Practical Applications:**
- Raoul Roncal, *Applying Scriptural Teaching (Basic Bible Study Method)*
  - Observe, Interpret, Apply
- Fr. Luke Dysinger, OSB “Lectio Divina”
- BEC Module “Bible Sharing” (3RSS Read-Silence-Share)

V. **Bibliography**

**BOOK SOURCES**
- Natividad, Dr. Ma. Lucille C. *Sacred Scripture: Soul of Theology*.
- Roncal, Raoul. *Applying Scriptural Teaching (Basic Bible Study Method)*.
- Señor, Donald. *Reading, Studying, and Praying the Scripture*.

**INTERNET SOURCES**
1st YEAR SEMINARY COLLEGE  
GROUND PLAN: INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SCRIPTURE

AUDIENCE: First Year College Seminarians  
TOPIC: Bible Sharing Method  
TIME FRAME: 1 hour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHRISTIAN MESSAGE</th>
<th>SOURCES/MEANS</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Doctrine** – The Sacred Scriptures help us in our encounter with God, nourish our spiritual life, guide our actions and direct us to holiness. (cf. DV 21) | **SS**: Awareness of the End Time *(Romans 13:13-14)*  
**CT**:  
“For in the Sacred books, the Father who is in heaven meets his children with great love and speaks with them: and the force and power in the word of God is so great that it stands as the support and energy of the Church, the strength of faith for her sons, the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life.” *(DV 2)*  
“To discern God’s action in our daily lives” demands a spiritual sensitivity that comes only from authentic Christian prayer and worship.” *(CFC 100)* | *The students are enabled to:*  
**Doctrine** – explain the connection/relevance of the Sacred Scripture in their daily experiences.  
**Moral** – enumerate concrete ways/actions through which they could strengthen their Christian living in light of the Sacred Scripture.  
**Worship** – engage in prayerful bible sharing with their group mates. |
| **Moral** – *(The Sacred Scriptures are)* “guiding our moral behavior toward authentic freedom and loving service of others.” *(CFC 112)* | **RESOURCES:**  
- New American Bible  
- Dei Verbum  
- Catechism for Filipino Catholics  
- St. Augustine Conversion Scene *(YouTube Video)*  
- Bible Sharing. BEC Module: 3RSS Read-Silence-Share  
**MEANS**  
- The Conversion of St. Augustine of Hippo  
- PPT Presentation  
- Bible Sharing  
- Class Discussion  
- Big group Sharing  
- Video Clip | |
| **Worship** – *(The Sacred Scriptures are)* “….drawing us into prayerful union with Christ, our Way, our Truth and our Life, in his Church *(CFC 112)* | | |

- **SS**: Awareness of the End Time *(Romans 13:13-14)*  
- **CT**:  
“For in the Sacred books, the Father who is in heaven meets his children with great love and speaks with them: and the force and power in the word of God is so great that it stands as the support and energy of the Church, the strength of faith for her sons, the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life.” *(DV 2)*  
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**The students are enabled to:**

**Doctrine** – explain the connection/relevance of the Sacred Scripture in their daily experiences.

**Moral** – enumerate concrete ways/actions through which they could strengthen their Christian living in light of the Sacred Scripture.

**Worship** – engage in prayerful bible sharing with their group mates.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HUMAN EXPERIENCE (Before)</th>
<th>HUMAN EXPERIENCE (During)</th>
<th>HUMAN EXPERIENCE (After)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The students are already knowledgeable about the Sacred Scriptures, but they have yet to</td>
<td><strong>H – ook</strong></td>
<td>The students are now equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills in facilitating Bible Sharing, not only within their BECs but also in their various relationships – family, peers, immediate community and in parish immersions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>appreciate the significance of the Sacred Scriptures in shaping their lives.</td>
<td>The Conversion Story of St. Augustine (Romans 13:13-14)</td>
<td>The students recognize the significance of the Sacred Scriptures in their daily lives through the Bible Sharing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The students do not know how to conduct/facilitate a Bible Sharing in their own Basic</td>
<td><strong>Questions for Understanding:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecclesial Communities (BECs) which could be a means of letting them recognized the</td>
<td>1. What happened?</td>
<td></td>
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<td>importance of Scriptures in shaping their lives.</td>
<td>2. Looking back to the life of St. Augustine, why was he struck by the Scripture passage he read?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. What is the importance of reading the Sacred Scripture?</td>
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<td><strong>E – ngage</strong></td>
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<td><em>NOTE: Readings indicated above will be given as reading homework.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Discussions on:</strong></td>
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<td>- DV 21</td>
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<td>- CFC 112</td>
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<td><strong>Question for Understanding:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>What do the readings tell us about the relevance of the Sacred Scriptures in our daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>life?</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Elements of Bible Sharing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Respect, Openness, Sympathy, Empathy)</td>
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<td><strong>Question for Understanding:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the difference between sympathy and empathy?</td>
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<td><strong>3RSS Method</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Triple Reading</td>
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<td>Triple Silence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triple Sharing</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>from John Paul I Biblical Center, Vigan, Ilocus Sur</em></td>
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<td><strong>A – ctivity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on 3RSS (30 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Big group Sharing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Questions for Understanding:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Do you find the method helpful or non-helpful? Why or why not?</td>
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<td>2. What did you realize when you’re doing the method?</td>
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<td>3. Where can you apply this method?</td>
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</table>
R – reflect
On a whole sheet of paper, write down your insights about the method (same questions as in the big group sharing).

T – transfer
3-2-1 Method
3 things that you understand
2 things that you will apply in your life
1 thing that is unclear to you

Prepared By (2nd Summer – FIRE 2014):
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